

## Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /061 W

----- 048869

O R 041717Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACTIMMEDIATE 2891

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE 915

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4767

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: GOZ RESPONSE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BULA SUMMONED ME FOR 5:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME JUNE 4 AND RECEIVED ME PROMPTLY, SO PROMPTLY THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL BAGBENI, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AT MEETING AND WAS CALLED BY PROTOCOL OFFICER UPON MY ARRIVAL, NEVER SHOWED UP. AFTER BRIEF PLEASANTRIES BULA ASKED WHAT WE WERE DOING. I REPLIED THAT AS FAR AS I KNEW, NOTHING, WHILE WAITING FOR THE RESPONSE OF THE GOZ.

2. HE THEN SAID, "WE WISH TO REPLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BUT WE REQUIRE AS A CONDITION WRITTEN ASSURANCES FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PAY RANSOM, NEITHER MONEY NOR ARMS." I ASKED IF HE COULD GIVE ME THAT IN WRITING. HE SAID NO BUT THAT HE WOULD REPEAT IT AND HE REPEATED EXACTLY AS ABOVE. I THOUGHT IT BETTER NOT TO RAISE POSSIBILITY THAT PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR INSTITUTIONS MIGHT IN THE END PAY RANSOM. THUS I REPLIED THAT WHILE I REGRETTED THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DELAY IN LAUNCHING VAGNI MISSION, I WOULD SEEK SUCH ASSURANCES AND I THOUGHT THAT AS I UNDERSTOOD  
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OUR POLICY THEY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. I ASKED

THAT IF THIS WERE DONE, COULD WE COUNT ON THE FULL  
COOPERATION OF THE GOZ. WOULD THIS GO BEYOND JUST THE  
VAGNI MISSION? THE ANSWER WAS YES.

3. I SAID I WOULD BE BACK TO HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
AND HE SAID. "NO, I AM LEAVING TONIGHT. YOU SHOULD  
CONVEY THE REPLY OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DIRECTOR GENERAL  
BAGBENI." I WOULD SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECRETARY'S  
LETTER BE ADDRESSED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND BE CABLED  
FOR DELIVERY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IF THIS IS POSSIBLE, AS  
I HOPE IT WILL BE.

4. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, AS OF NOW THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR  
HAS NOT BEEN CALLED IN BY GOZ.  
HINTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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